examining the draft of the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill in consultation with various stakeholders including the State Governments. Full text of the draft Bill is available on this Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in. The draft Bill proposes to set up an independent Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) for broadcasting services. Regulation and monitoring of content is one of the major functions required to be performed by the proposed Regulator. The proposed regulator will be empowered to issue regulations regarding the places, types and quantity of equipment to be provided by the service providers free of cost, for monitoring of content and the manner in which such monitoring may be carried out by the licensing authorities or authorized officers under the Bill.

Air-time access by religious organization

925. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that certain private channels are violating Government policy of reasonable access to air-time to religious organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any recommendations from TRAI for banning the entry of religious organizations into broadcasting activities; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Government has no specific policy for reasonable access to air-time to religious organizations for private TV channels. The private FM Radio and TV channels are free to determine their programming provided it is in compliance of the relevant programme and advertisement codes.

(c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations made on 12.11.2008 has not favoured the entry of religious bodies into broadcasting activities and own their broadcasting stations and teleports.

(d) As per Government policy, a company controlled by or associated with a religious body is disqualified from seeking FM Radio permissions.

Backlog of court cases

926. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has run up a backlog of more than 50,000 cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;